

Governor's State Trails Council Meeting Minutes - FINAL

Monday, July 12, 2004

The Palmatory (DNR Field Station), 1210 N Palmatory Street, Horicon

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Council Members present: Mike McFadzen, Ken Carpenter, David Phillips, Donald Kirn, Tom Huber, and Ramsey Lee by phone.

Council Members absent: Tom Thornton, Chris Kegel and Connie Loden

DNR staff present: Mike Willman, Peter Biermeier, Brigit Brown, Jeff Prey

Others present: Pat Jacobosky, Rob McConnel, Ken Lindsmeier, and John Schnorr

TIME	PRESENTER	ITEMS & TYPE	KEY POINTS	OUTCOMES NEXT STEPS, ASSIGNMENTS
10:00 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Introductions / Agenda changes and Approval of April meeting minutes	Mike McFadzen welcomed everyone. Agenda passed. Minutes passed with corrections to key points for National Scenic Trails Use Issues agenda item (trail length and proper name for Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation. Moved by Huber, seconded by Phillips.	Minutes as corrected will be posted on the internet.
10:10 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Council Member Orientation (recommended for all Council Members)	General overview of the history of the STC, enabling legislation, bylaws, and issues and actions taken by the STC, as well as a briefing on the structure of the DNR.	
10:40 a.m.	Mike McFadzen, Chair	Chair Report: Federal Trail-related Funding, Disabled Access	Update on the Federal Highway Bill, which provides the majority of funding for trails in the US. The bill expired last Oct. and has been operating with continuing resolutions. It is unlikely that a bill will be passed before the end of 2004. Phillips suggested a draft resolution for discussion at the next STC meeting concerning the difference between the obligation amount (federal) and the appropriated amount (state) for the Transportation Enhancement program. This led to questions about how and what level and type of lobbying and advocacy STC members can engage in. Rob McConnell of the Wi ATV Association (WATVA), briefed the STC on how this (lobbying and advocacy) had worked in his experience with WATVA. Discussion on possibility of adding position(s) to STC and making STC advisory to the legislature via statutory change. Disabled access is the next issue to be addressed by the Trails Management Team (internal DNR team). Ken Carpenter, Wi representative to the American Horse Council, reported on a federal meeting he attended this summer in D.C. regarding tracking the movement of horses.	Brown will draft a resolution to be discussed at the October meeting regarding funding the Transportation Enhancements program. Brown will work to get Paul Heinen (DNR legislative liaison) to attend an upcoming STC meeting. The STC will be apprised of the Trails Management Team's work on disabled access.
11:00 a.m.	Peter Biermeier, Section Chief, WiDNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation and Mike Willman, Director, WiDNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation	DNR Report: Park System Strategic Plan, Code 45 changes, Parks and Recreation Bureau Director search update, Budget update, major projects update	Peter Biermeier made the STC aware of a DOA policy proposal to only allow state employees to operate Department vehicles. The DNR is asking for a waiver for volunteers. The STC would like to voice their support for an exemption to this requirement. Motion to do so passed unanimously. Peter Biermeier, Mike Willman, and Kate Fitzgerald (Lead Planner for DNR's Bureau of Facilities and Lands) met with the Wisconsin Horse Council Board of Directors to discuss horse accommodations and facilities on state lands. The search for a permanent Director of the DNR's Bureau of Parks and Recreation (PR) is down to seven candidates from an initial field of 34. Proposed changes to Natural Resources Administrative Code will go to the August Natural Resources Board (NRB) meeting to request permission to hold hearings on the proposals. The STC was included in solicitation for comments on the draft of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation's Strategic Plan. The '05-'07 PR development budget is going to the NRB in Aug. Nearly \$10M in stewardship development money has been requested, (continued next page)	<p>A resolution from the STC will be formulated and will be run through proper channels to DOA. McFadzen will also contact DOA regarding the exemption. Resolution will read: <i>Whereas volunteers are an integral and necessary part of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' workforce, and</i></p> <p><i>Whereas access to use of Department of Natural Resources' vehicles by volunteers is essential to operations and quality customer service of the Department,</i></p> <p><i>It is therefore RESOLVED that the Governor's State Trails Council supports an exemption for qualified volunteers within the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from the mandate by the Wisconsin Department of Administration to allow only state employees use of state vehicles.</i></p> <p>Passed this twelfth day of July 2004 by the Governor's Wisconsin State Trails Council. (continued next page)</p>

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			with much of that going towards revenue enhancement projects. Over \$100,000 in requests has to go through the Building Commission. An update on the development of the seven rail segments acquired last year was given followed by a brief discussion on the importance sustainability when designing and planning trails. The US Forest Service's OHV draft guidelines was handed out. It is expected that this document will not be finalized for some time while the formal objections to the plan are addressed.	Brown will arrange for a presentation on sustainable trails at the October meeting.
11:30 a.m.	Jeff Prey, Senior Planner, WiDNR Bureau of Parks and Recreation	SCORP (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) Presentation	Prey gave a comprehensive presentation on the SCORP process. SCORP provides a snapshot of outdoor recreation. It is done every five years and qualifies Wi for federal Land and Water Conservation money, which currently provides \$1.67 million per year in funding. McFadzen asked if help was needed, for example in distributing surveys. Prey said no, but help will be needed from STC when it comes time to talk with user groups. Phillips is the STC representative to the SCORP team.	
12:15 p.m.		Lunch		
1:15 p.m.	Eric Ebersberger, WiDNR Legal Services (via telephone)	Rail Abandonment Issues, Transmission Line Update	Ebersberger confirmed that the American Transmission Company has decided not to consider trails for locating high powered transmission lines, at this time. There was no update on the Turtle Lake to Comstock line, which is a federally granted ROW and is potentially where the ruling of the Mauler case in Bayfield County could be tested. Ebersberger will be taking over real estate issues for Rick Henneger. McFadzen praised Henneger, the DNR attorney who has kept the STC up to date on trail matters related to real estate, and in particular issues concerning federally granted rights of way, since the inception of the STC. Henneger will be retiring from the DNR this month.	Ebersberger will be asked to give another update at the next STC meeting. A formal certificate of appreciation will be prepared by Brown for Henneger on behalf of the STC. <i>Note: Eric Ebersberger has since resigned from the DNR and will not be available for the October meeting.</i>
1:45 p.m.	Tim Miller, WiDNR Northern Region Park and Trail Manager (via telephone)	ATV Advisory Committee	A draft of the policy for All-Terrain Vehicle Use on Department Lands was distributed. Miller reviewed the mission of the internal DNR ATV team with the STC. McFadzen asked about a mission for the stakeholder group. Miller responded that is still being drafted. Tentative date for the stakeholder meeting is August 14. One of the questions to be taken to the stakeholders group is what role, if any, should the DNR take in providing intensive use areas? Ongoing involvement of the STC and other user groups will necessitate updates as actions are taken/considered on this issue.	The STC will be kept apprised of developments on this issue.
2:15 p.m.	Tom Huber, Council Member, WiDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator and John Bridwell, WiDOT Roadway Design Engineer	Road Crossings for Trails	Huber and Bridwell passed out and reviewed the technical aspects and WiDOT policies for where and when non at-grade crossings of highways for trails are warranted (Chapter 06-03-12 WiDOT Program Management Manual and procedure 11-55-15 of the Facilities Development Manual).	
2:45 p.m.		Public comment	Representative of the Oshkosh 4WD Club stated that there are no organized public places to go four wheel driving in Wisconsin and that 4WD interests are similar to ATV user desires. The Lakewood area has many trucks during holiday weekends, and that there is an emphasis on responsible use. Currently, this group uses the Pipeline Trail.	
3:00 p.m.		Adjourn		